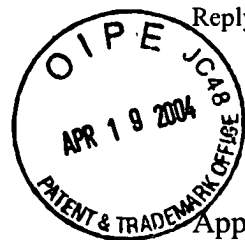


Application No. 09/740,424
Amendment and Request for Continued Examination dated April 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed January 27, 2004



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/740,424 Confirmation No. : 5114
Applicant : Kiyotaka Tsukada et al.
Filed : December 19, 2000
T.C./A.U. : 2815
Examiner : Chris C. Chu

Attorney Docket No. : 057329-0001
Customer No. : 20572

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on _____

April 15, 2004

By: _____

Name: _____

William K. Baxter

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 27, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as indicated below. This is also a request for continued examination. Applicant respectfully requests that the three-month shortened statutory period for responding to the Office Action be extended by one month until April 27, 2004. A one-month Petition for Extension of Time is submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 4 of this paper.

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Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 7 of this paper and include an attached drawing sheet for new Fig. 8.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.